

AT THE BAR FOR ARSON.

Buddenklepper Is Accused of Setting Fire to His Shops and Warerooms.

According to the Fire Marshal He Increased His Insurance and Removed Goods.

BURNING OIL UPON EXCELSIOR.

That Was What the Firemen Found When They Arrived—The Accused Man Has Been Unable to Furnish the Required \$10,000 Bail.

Through the efforts of Fire Marshal Hollister, Deputy O'Sullivan and Detective Sergeant McManus, William F. Buddenklepper, formerly a well-to-do business man of Harlem, is in the Tombs charged with arson in the first degree. Buddenklepper was a cabinet maker, and had a shop and warerooms at No. 232 East One Hundred and Sixth street.

On the night of August 21 last his shop was burned under circumstances that aroused the suspicions of the Fire Marshal, who began an investigation. On the top floor of the building the Salvation Army was holding a meeting, at which fully fifty persons were present, and they were rescued with considerable difficulty.

The fire had been caused, it was shown, by an oil stove which was overturned into a pile of excelsior. The indications of incendiarism were considered strong enough to warrant Buddenklepper's arrest. He was arraigned before Magistrate Kudlich, who considered the evidence insufficient and discharged him. The Fire Marshal did not give up the case. He discovered, according to the evidence placed before the Grand Jury, that two weeks before the fire Buddenklepper increased his insurance from \$2,000 to \$4,000, giving as his reason that he had increased his stock. The insurance companies refused to pay upon advice of detectives.

A truckman named John Rafferty, who has a stand at One Hundred and Sixth street and Third avenue, was discovered, who admitted that a short time before the fire he had taken several truck loads of Buddenklepper's furniture to Hyman Ginsberg, at No. 106 East One Hundred and Tenth street. The latter admitted having received them, but said that Buddenklepper had afterward removed them. He told the detectives that Buddenklepper had made him promise not to tell anybody that he had removed the goods.

ARRESTED AT HIS HOME.
This evidence was given to District Attorney Fellows, who assigned Assistant District Attorney Henry C. Allen to present the matter to the Grand Jury. An indictment was found and Buddenklepper was arrested at his home, No. 1740 Lexington avenue, late Wednesday night by Detective Sergeant McManus, of the Fire Marshal's force. He was locked up in the East Sixty-seventh Street Police Station over night and was arraigned before Judge Cowling in the Court of General Sessions yesterday morning.

Buddenklepper is forty years old and a blond, with a slight mustache. He bore himself in court with great coolness. His wife, a stout, good-humored looking woman, was in the court room, wept throughout the trial.

Buddenklepper had been arrested five months ago for the same offense, and discharged by Magistrate Kudlich, he was being placed twice in jeopardy on the same charge. He asked that bail be fixed at



William F. Buddenklepper.

He was arraigned before Judge Cowling in General Sessions yesterday, and after pleading not guilty to a charge of arson in the first degree was sent to the Tombs in default of \$10,000 bail. He is accused of setting fire to his cabinet-making shops and warerooms after having increased his insurance from \$2,000 to \$4,000. It is also said that he removed much of his property before the fire. He was arrested once before on the same charge, but was released in the Police Court.

\$1,500. Judge Cowling held the prisoner in \$10,000. No bondsman was secured yesterday.

A CONSPIRACY TO CRUSH HIM.

Buddenklepper said after his arraignment:

"I think it's a conspiracy to crush me. I won't say now whom I think is at the bottom of it. I've been five years in this country, and this is the first attack on my character. I did give up my keys to the landlord after my indictment, and I gave up my business, simply because this charge has ruined me. I was not in the store for two hours before the fire, and was at a friend's next door playing pinocle. I am confident that I shall be able to prove my innocence."

Fire Marshal Hollister said yesterday that he has an extraordinarily strong case against Buddenklepper. A workman who was in the latter's employ will, it is said, testify that his employer was seen about the premises a short time before the fire was discovered. Before Magistrate Kudlich Buddenklepper swore that he had left for home fully two hours prior to the fire, and that he was playing pinocle when told of it. A representative of the Fire Marshal said last evening:

"We will be able to prove that his stock, while insured for \$4,000, was not worth more than \$400. Besides the stuff he sent to Ginsberg, in One Hundred and Tenth street, he sent a lot to his mother-in-law. We also have evidence to show that two weeks before the fire he bought two bales of excelsior, which he never used in his business. At the time of the fire the firemen found it scattered over the floor, and an oil stove overturned in it."

THEY SAW BUDDEN.
Captain Sapsberg, in charge of the Salvation Army branch that occupied the top floor of the building, said that he saw Buddenklepper on the fire-escape at 8:50 p. m., and the alarm of fire was turned in at 7:15 p. m. Frank Zeller, son of Buddenklepper's landlord, said yesterday:

Buddenklepper was in partnership with

a man named Well some months before the fire, and they quarreled. After litigation Justice Ingraham gave Buddenklepper the sole right to enter the place, and soon afterward he bought out Well. Three weeks before the fire Buddenklepper came to me excitedly and said, 'I am afraid Well is trying to burn me out. He has a bad reputation.'"

"He then took me into the place and showed me in a crack under the stove matches strung along a wire with paper fastening them together. A fireman of Engine Company No. 14 investigated, and no paper like that used could be found about the store."

Zeller was one of the first to enter the store after the fire.

"Fifty feet from the entrance," he continued, "excelsior lay in heaps, covering a space of fifteen feet. All about were three, four and five gallon cans, with the corks out. The excelsior smelled of turpentine and benzine, while the furniture was piled nearly to the ceiling on top of the excelsior."

M. A. Remsen, of No. 1010 Westchester avenue, who worked in the grocery of W. P. Becker, on the first floor, also swore that Buddenklepper was in the shop within half an hour of the blaze. He said that he had left at 7 p. m., and Buddenklepper was then upstairs.

Jewellers' Board of Trade Election.

The annual meeting of the New York Jewellers' Board of Trade took place yesterday afternoon, at No. 70 Nassau street. The following directors were elected for this year: Ira Barrows, E. V. Clergue, William A. Copeland, George E. Fahys, A. J. G. Hodenpyl, David Keller, A. Lonsbury, Samuel H. Levy, August Oppenheimer, Frank H. Richardson, W. I. Rosenfeld, C. F. Wood and Leo Wortzner. The officers elected for this year were the same as last year, namely: President, A. J. G. Hodenpyl; first vice-president, August Oppenheimer; second vice-president, E. V. Clergue; treasurer, David Keller; secretary and assistant treasurer, Herbert M. Condit.

WROTE ABOUT HERSELF.

Mrs. Jennie Williams, of Mount Pleasant, Locked Up in Ludlow Street Jail.

Dictated Abusive Letters to Her Ten-Year-Old Daughter and Mailed Them.

SHOWED THEM TO HER HUSBAND.

He Believed It Was the Work of an Enemy and Tried to Find the Author. Authorities Traced Them to the Woman.

Eleven years ago James Williams married the prettiest girl in Ulster County. That was what he and his rivals thought. Today Mrs. Jennie Williams is a prisoner in Ludlow Street Jail having been sent there by United States Commissioner Shields to await a hearing on Monday on a charge of having sent obscene letters through the mails. Her case is so remarkable that Anthony Comstock, as well as the court officials who have been informed of her actions, declare that "for thorough depravity her actions cannot be surpassed."

When she married James Williams, Jennie was twenty years old, and the daughter of a farmer living near "The Corners," which is near Mount Pleasant Depot. She had always been wayward and headstrong and had refused to go to school. As a consequence she had but the rudiments of an education. She could read and knew something of the most elementary branches except writing, which she let severely alone.

She had been courted by the young farmers in the neighborhood, but had rejected them one after another. When she finally picked out James Williams for a husband he was employed by the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad, and is a steady, hardworking man, who has the respect of his neighbors and has done his best to take care of his family. Two children were born to the couple. Williams had bought a little home near "The Corners" and had furnished it comfortably. It was somewhat better than the homes of his neighbors.

Everything seemed to be going well when Mrs. Williams met young Jennie Simmons. He is the son of a farmer living near "The Corners," and is now about nineteen years old. It was three years ago that he met Mrs. Williams. From the first time he met her young Simmons was greatly attracted by Mrs. Williams. She had lost the girlish freshness which had made her beauty so well known in Ulster County. She was still a good looking woman and one of the kind to captivate the young farmer's son. He was soon a frequent visitor at the home of the Williamses.

For a time the neighbors thought little of this. Then they began to talk of it. They had discussed the matter for months before Williams heard of it. He reproached his wife, and she protested that all the stories told about her were the inventions of the neighbors who had taken a strong dislike to her. A couple of days later she showed him a letter she had just received. It was anonymous and connected her name with that of young Simmons.

Williams read the letter and was furious. He said he would find the author and kill him for the letter purporting to be written by a man. Securing the envelope,

Williams saw that it bore the Mount Pleasant postmark. Going there he tried to find out who had mailed it. The postmaster, however, could not remember. Not to be thwarted Williams began securing specimens of the handwriting of the men in the neighborhood, hoping by means of these to find the author.

Before he had worked long Mrs. Williams received a second letter. It was worse than the first. His work in examining the handwriting had led to nothing as yet, and he decided that young Jennie Simmons was the author of the letters. So he started out to find some of Simmons's handwriting. It took him nearly a week to get what he wanted, and in the meantime the letters were being received daily. Not all of them were addressed to Mrs. Williams. Some of them were sent to her little ten-year-old daughter, Mary. These were as bad as the ones addressed to Mrs. Williams, and were so worded as to lead to the belief that they were written by Jennie Simmons.

Williams could not satisfy himself of this, however, and after a talk with the Mount Pleasant Postmaster he decided to ask the aid of the Government. So a statement of the case and one of the letters were sent on to Washington. From there they were forwarded to the Post Office Department in this city. Anthony Comstock was informed of the case, and with the Government officials he began work.

Before he had worked long Mrs. Williams was sending the letters herself. Opposing this theory was the fact that she could not write. Then they began a search for any other possible author of the letters. In a little while they had secured evidence that she had been seen to mail one of the letters. With this proof they cross-examined her closely. She finally broke down, and confessed that in the hope of diverting her husband's suspicions she had dictated the letters to her young daughter, and had made the latter write and address them. Then she had mailed the letters at Mount Pleasant, as secretly as possible. The child was called in by the detectives and corroborated the statement made by the woman.

On the confession Mrs. Williams was arrested and taken before Commissioner Devo at Kingston. He turned the case over to Commissioner Shields in this city, and the latter sent Mrs. Williams to Ludlow Street Jail to await further examination on Monday.

In the meantime Williams has begun suit against Jennie Simmons, charging the latter with alienating Mrs. Williams's affections. The letters will be used in evidence in this last suit.

A MOTHER'S PRIMARY RIGHT.

Mrs. Strauch Secures Her Daughter Pending an Investigation.

Justice Pryor decided yesterday that a mother had the first right to her child. Agnes C. Strauch, who seeks a divorce from William F. Strauch, asked the Supreme Court to compel her husband to return her four-year-old daughter Mabel to her. The defendant took the little girl away seven or eight days ago. The Justice ruled that the child should remain with her mother until the Court could decide finally upon the question of custody, raised by Strauch's affidavits to the effect that his wife is not a proper person to have control of the girl.

These affidavits state that Mrs. Strauch has accepted from men gifts of garters and costly furs, and that she receives her letters through a private box in the Post Office. Mrs. Strauch contradicts all of these statements and answers her husband of being wholly incompetent to rear little Mabel properly.

Justice Pryor remarked that if the affidavits were true neither of the parents had a right to the child, but that if they were false Mrs. Strauch had the first right. He added:

"I will not go against the law of nature. The mother to whom has fallen the care and trouble of nurturing and caring for her offspring should not be deprived of it unless it can be proved absolutely that she is not a proper person to keep it. I will award the custody of the child to her mother."

Porter V. Ransom was appointed referee in the case.

ELECTRICIANS LOCKED OUT

Trouble Between Rival Unions Made the Contractors Desperate.

Discharged the Whole Body of Workers, but Will Re-Engage Them as Individuals.

THIRTY BIG BUILDINGS AFFECTED.

Board of Walking Delegates Will Meet To-day—May Order Sympathetic Strikes on a Large Scale—One Union Must Go Under.

Between 700 and 800 electrical workers employed by the Electrical Contractors' Association were locked out at noon yesterday.

The lockout was a surprise to the Electrical Workers' Union, although they expected a hostile demonstration from the contractors in the near future. The contractors, however, who have been holding a series of secret meetings for several days, took the unions off their guards.

About thirty of the largest buildings in the city are affected by this lockout, as far as the electrical workers are concerned. To-day the men who apply for work as individuals will be taken back without any discrimination as to whether they are union or non-union or what union they belong to.

The Board of Walking Delegates will meet to-day and sympathetic strikes on a large scale may be ordered. The trouble arose out of the strikes directed by Electrical Union No. 3 and the Board of Walking Delegates against local union No. 3 of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Local Union No. 5 was formed by a number of dissatisfied members of No. 3 and the members of the Electrical Workers' League. The latter was organized by workmen in the employ of the Western Electric Company, Thames and Greenwich streets, and was known as a protected union. That is, it was organized with the consent and assistance of employers.

Since Electrical Workers' Union No. 5, which is not represented in the Board of Walking Delegates, was formed, war has been waged upon it by No. 3. The latter belonged at one time to the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, but became a Knight of Labor organization and enlisted the sympathies of the Board of Walking Delegates, with which it is affiliated in its fight against No. 5.

As soon as members of No. 5 were employed on a building the members of No. 3 struck for their discharge. Sympathetic strikes were threatened if the dismissal of the obvious men did not take place.

Contractors complained that they could never tell when there would be a strike. Men came with union cards and were employed, and straightway all the other union men went on strike. Finally the contractors determined to discharge all the men and begin anew. They claim that they do not object to unions when the unions do not fight among each other and order strikes.

The result of this fight will be the end of either No. 3 or No. 5. No. 3 has the Board of Walking Delegates behind it, and No. 5 has the backing of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Charles L. Elditz, who was secretary of the Contractors' Association when the general strike of the Electrical Workers for the eight-hour work day took place, said last night:

"There is no doubt that this fight will determine whether No. 3 or No. 5 of the Electrical Workers' unions will go under. My

impression is it will be No. 3. All the men are locked out who are employed by members of the association, and that is more than four-fifths. Some of the contractors were with me to-day, but I have decided not to join in the lock-out at present. I am employing members of No. 3, but if they are troublesome I may join in the lock-out myself."

Subscription for Mrs. Sarah Kohn.

Mrs. B. S. Cowen and Mrs. R. W. Bloum, representing the Hannah Blackburn Society, as a relief committee, called at the Journal office yesterday and left \$3. to be given to Mrs. Sarah Kohn. Mrs. Kohn was the woman who was abandoned by her husband five months ago. He left her without any means of support, with two small children, one three weeks old, the other three years old. She lived until a week ago at No. 64 Forsyth street, when she was dispossessed last Friday, but the housekeeper, Mrs. Weissman, gave her a room in her apartments. The sum subscribed yesterday was gratefully accepted by Mrs. Kohn.

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